



## Police Ethics and Self-Discipline

Police Psychologist Dr. Paul Whitesell spoke at the Michigan State Police Training Academy on November 5, 2002, on the topic of "Police Ethics and Self-Discipline." To understand the problem, Dr. Whitesell explains that you first need to understand how the human brain works, then examine the history of police ethics, and then you can understand how to build and keep self-disciplined police officers.

### Part 1: The Human Triune Brain

In 1973, Dr. Paul MacLean, senior research scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health, realized that while the human brain is made up of many interconnected structures, they tend to function on three distinct subdivisions. They are figuratively called the Reptilian (Stem area), Mammalian (Limbic region), and the High Brain (Neocortical). MacLean called these three brains, together, the Triune Brain. Since

then, many researchers have furthered MacLean's hypothesis, but most notably Dr. Adrian Raine, at the University of Southern California, and Dr. Steven Pinker, a chaired professor of psychology at MIT.

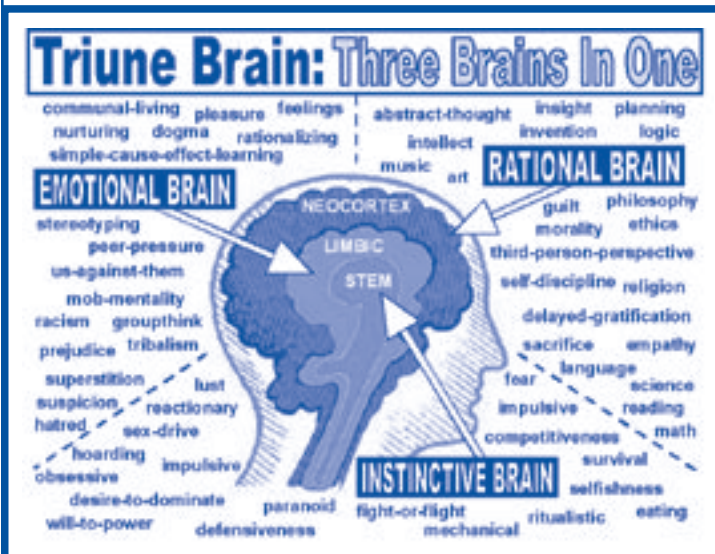
The R-Complex or Reptilian Brain is the area around the Brainstem. In lower animals, the Reptilian Brain is the primal instinct or "survival of the fittest" mechanism, and works well enough to keep them alive. The reptilian brain acts on stimulus and response. When hungry – eat; when attacked – fight, flight, or freeze; when it's time to procreate – have sex; when there is competition from another of your species – try to dominate them.

In humans, unfortunately, the Reptilian Brain can manifest itself negatively as greed, lust, arrogance, brutality, and impulsiveness. At an extreme is the "psychopathic" mentality, like Saddam Hussein. The psychopath may have normal intelligence in every other way, but they lack empathy for

as ambition to improve ourselves and succeed in our endeavors, but these impulses must be strictly controlled.

The next brain level is referred to as the Mammalian Brain or Limbic Brain, which is fully developed in higher mammals, but very little in reptiles. The Limbic Brain is the emotional brain, supporting communal living, as well as cause-effect learning. Unfortunately, the Limbic emotions and simple learning can manifest in humans as tribalism, cults, prejudice, stereotypes, superstition, rationalization, "us against them" thinking, and groupthink. The actions of Osama bin Laden indicate a high degree of Limbic emotions, so he hates anyone who doesn't follow "his" belief system. While the Limbic Brain is not sophisticated, humans still need its better emotions as the foundation for maintaining relationships. Studies where the Limbic Brain has been injured show that the selfishness and lust drives of the Reptilian Brain become totally overpowering.

Surrounding the Limbic and Stem areas is the Neocortex, which makes up 80 percent of the human brain. It allows for abstract thought, ethics, religion, math, music, art, and planning. The front of the Neocortex, the Prefrontal Cortex, is the seat of human morality and conscience. It acts as the traffic cop controlling impulses coming from the Reptilian and Mammalian Brains. It allows for civilization and common law, replacing the savage survival of the fittest of the Reptilian and the arbitrary power hierarchies of the Mammalian.



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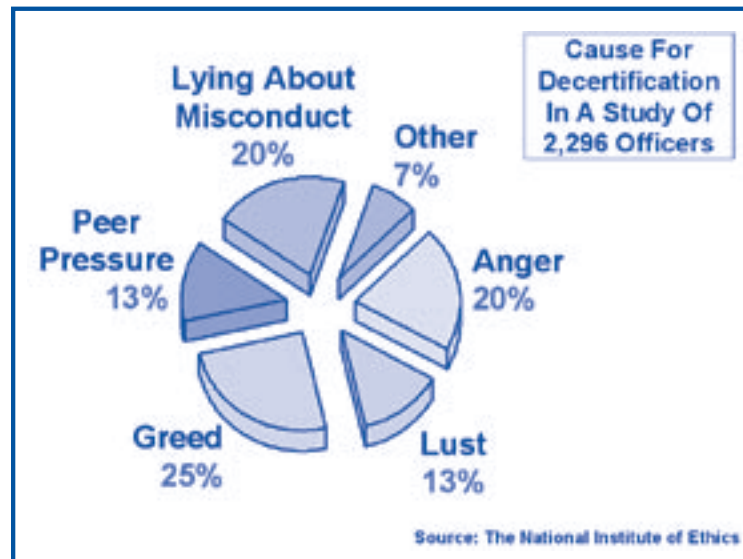
When the Prefrontal Cortex is injured or impaired, the person loses his sense of social responsibility, that is, to think abstractly or hold “reverence” for high ideals like the Golden Rule. Recent studies where brain scans were taken of violent serial criminals, it was found their Prefrontal Cortex was less active than normal, “with lower mean volumes of prefrontal gray matter,” allowing the Lower Brain to have greater control over behavior. This may have been caused in childhood, as most habitually violent people have been victims themselves of severe physical or sexual abuse. Timothy McVeigh, for example, was brutalized repeatedly by bullies as a child.

Some people make unethical decisions simply because their brain was never trained or disciplined to know right from wrong. And as every police officer knows, drinking alcohol impedes the higher reasoning of the Prefrontal Cortex, making “anyone” who’s had too much to drink more irrational and unpredictable. The Prefrontal Cortex is also the part of the brain most prone to getting tired and needing sleep, which is why our dreams can be so irrational, and why we are more likely to commit unethical acts when tired.

## Part 2: The History of Police Ethics

If you go back to the 11th through 16th centuries, Knighthood was the law enforcement paradigm. This occurred as a result of the “Truce of God,” when the clergy seized upon an opportunity between wars to transform the military into an Order for law enforcement. As a rule, a would be Knight needed to pass 14 years of military tests, spiritual trials, and then perform some great deed, before being accepted as worthy of Knighthood. Completing one’s Knighthood usually included an elaborate ceremony and rebaptism that exacted from the Knight a vow or oath to use their weapons chiefly for the protection of the weak and defenseless, and to follow a code of conduct called Chivalry, setting the Knights up as examples for righteous living.

Much later in history, in 1829, Sir Robert Peel was charged with the task of forming a new, more democratic, police force for the city of London,



England. He chose Colonel Charles Rowan to head up this new force of 1,000 hand picked men. Having been a career military officer (who had fought with distinction at the Battle of Waterloo), Colonel Rowan fell back on the military structure. Though originally called “Bobbies,” after Sir Robert Peel, it wasn’t long before the term “Officer” was used in reference to those comprising the new police force. As a military man, Colonel Rowan was very aware of the nuances attached to the term “Officer.” Like a Knight, the Officer was held to a significantly higher standard of conduct and reasoning than was required of the common soldier.

Dealing with difficult people isn’t an easy thing to do for anybody. The average person operates by reciprocity, impulsively meeting disrespect with disrespect in kind. Most people retaliate with aggression when aggressed upon. But the “Officer,” like a Knight, is able to maintain himself, staying in the High Brain.

The Higher Law expects that a police officer will maintain control of human weakness. “Such discipline asks much, and is very much against natural predisposition,” says Whitesell. The problem with developing disciplined police today is, instead of having 14 years of training as in the days of the Knights, now we have about 20 weeks. Given such restraint, we must still find a way to develop ethical and disciplined police officers, but we have certainly seen failings, and as few as they may be, they disgrace the Order. The graph on this page show what Low Brain failings cause the majority

of police decertifications.

Police ethics instructor Dr. Neal Trautman recently conducted a video interview with ex-officer “Jim Batsel” to illustrate how even an honest cop can go bad. Batsel, who is now serving time behind bars, was like any other officer, starting his career as

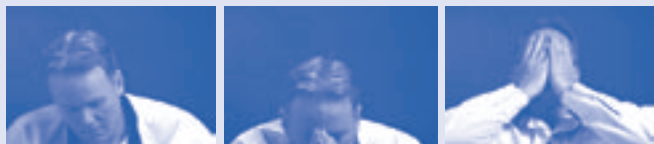
enthusiastic and highly motivated. But then he got in with an arrogant clique of friends, and he started to drink, womanize, and live beyond his means. Batsel began using steroids to bulk-up, which only exasperated his feelings of self-importance and entitlement. Batsel’s self-absorbed attitude and lifestyle led him down a slippery-slope of progressive misconduct – and eventually to criminal activity. (Police instructors can check out a video interview of Batsel by calling Sandra Luther at the LERC, 517-322-5624, ask for video #V0938).

How does a basically normal person, who has a healthy brain and was raised to know right from wrong, slide into the Dark Side (the Low Brain)? Police Psychologist Dr. Kevin M. Gilmartin has found that one of the central reasons for the deterioration of values in good police officers is the development of “Victim Thinking,” also known as “Prison Thinking,” “Loss of Faith” or the case of the “Amputated Spirit.”

Feeling like a victim (underpaid, under-appreciated, over-ruled, over-criticized and over-supervised) can create overwhelming feelings of resentment, cynicism, entitlement, and an uncontrollable desire for revenge, all Lower Brain emotions that block High Brain thinking – allowing people to rationalize behaviors that are clearly unacceptable. Victim Thinking is responsible for all manner of police corruption, and can also be seen in such irrational acts of violence as bullied children shooting-up their schools

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*I turned into the enemy! I can't undo...the biggest thing is all the people who believed in me and all the people who trusted in me...I can't undo it. And I didn't even mean to do it! I'm looking at it 9 years later, and I don't know how in the hell I made the decisions that put me here! I can't rationalize it now, how did I rationalize it then?*

– Jim Batsel

for revenge, or the tit-for-tat exchange of the Middle East conflict. (See the graph on this page.)

One unethical act only leads to the next – a downward spiral or “Slippery Slope” into the Low Brain. Leadership consultant Harry Chambers calls it the “Bad Attitude Cascade.”

### Part 3: Building Self-Discipline

As in the days of Knighthood, Whitesell explains that the distinction of being a police “Officer” pulls one into the purview and the responsibilities of nobility, which requires a certain state of mind. The first being, “REVERENCE” – the feeling of profound awe for high ideals, regarding God, family, country, justice, and those you lead. And from reverence comes self-disciplined “FORBEARANCE” – the capacity for tolerance and restraint in the face of provocation, to stay in control of your emotions under stress.

Prof. Paul Woodruff, author of “Reverence: Renewing A Forgotten Virtue,” says “When you’re utterly helpless, if you’re an old person in a hospital, if you’re stopped on a road late at night by a policeman, you really have nothing between you and a terrible fate but the REVERENCE of that powerful person. The best clue to how reverent we are is how we treat the weakest people around us. [The September 11 terrorists] were unable to recognize the humanity they shared with the many innocent people they killed.” Likewise, Dr. James T. Reese, a former instructor at the FBI Academy, states that “You need to be strong to be gentle – any weakling can be a bully.”

Woodruff goes on to say that, “REVERENCE is the virtue that keeps human

beings from trying to act like gods. The cliché, of course, is power corrupts. But it corrupts in a very particular way. You think that you can’t go wrong. You think that you can’t be mistaken... you think that you know the literal mind of God.” That is why arrogance is the first

step toward tyranny. Justice can’t exist without REVERENCE, says Woodruff. REVERENCE is needed as “a sort of gluing together of a society where there are big differences...to function in the same community.”

In studies carried out on aggression, Social Psychologist Roy Baumeister, of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, found that it was narcissism, self-love that includes a conviction of one’s superiority, that led people to retaliate aggressively when they perceived their self-esteem was threatened. Over-inflated self-esteem has been correlated with racist attitudes, drunken driving and unsound risk-taking behaviors. Arrogant people are more likely to explain away their own failures with excuses, or blame others, while they take credit for all successes.

In contrast, Dr. Jennifer Crocker of the University of Michigan’s Institute for Social Research, found that those who judged themselves by more internal

measures, like virtue or religious faith, were less likely to show anger and aggression and more restrained in their use of alcohol and drugs. “Not everything is about ‘me,’” she said. “There are sometimes bigger

things that we should be concerned about.” “My bottom line is that self-esteem isn’t really worth the effort,” says Baumeister, “Self-control is much more powerful.” The correlation is that having REVERENCE for something bigger than you gives you greater self-discipline (forbearance) and better judgement.

It is REVERENCE and FORBEARANCE that allow a police officer “not to corrode or deteriorate,” says Whitesell. Officers are expected to stay in the High Brain, to keep the bigger picture, even when the average person would have long ago surrendered to the Low Brain. Officers are able to keep their “vows” when others succumb to the temptations of greed, lust and power. In times of danger, officers move toward the sound of trouble when others move away, and, as was related in the World Trade Center catastrophe, “They were going up as we were coming down.”

But it’s not always easy to maintain REVERENCE and practice the self-discipline of noble FORBEARANCE. “No one I have ever known can do it all the time and without fail,” says Whitesell. According to the Triune Brain theory, the brain upshifts and downshifts depending on the stimulus. When confronted with stress, danger, or provocation, the brain wants to shift down to the Reptilian, and respond with fight, flight, or freeze. PTSD is in fact a survival mechanism of the Low Brain, telling you to stay away from some stressor, but which

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**The Continuum of Compromise**  
- SLIPPERY SLOPE TO POLICE CORRUPTION -  
Kevin M. Gilmartin, Ph. D.

1. A Perceived Sense of Victimization (Real or Imagined)  
Resulting In A Bad Attitude, i.e., Blaming, Rationalizing

2. Acts of Omission or Selective Non-Productivity

3. Acts of Commission –  
Administrative Misconduct

4. Acts of Commission –  
Criminal Misconduct

**BAD ATTITUDE CASCADE**

Call the LERC at 517-322-5624 and check out Dr. Gilmartin’s video  
“Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement” (V0811).

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becomes maladaptive for police who need to repeatedly confront danger. For a police officer, reacting instinctively to stress takes away the ability to stay in control.

In his "Bulletproof Mind" program, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman shows the result of studies that as a police officers heart rate (stress level) goes up, he begins to lose complex motor skill, memory, and cognitive thinking. This is why police need to train under "realistic" conditions, so they can "learn" to stay in the Neocortex when they enter a dangerous (stressful) situation. In fact, Baumeister suggests that you think of self-discipline as a muscle and "a muscle that gets stronger with exercise." This is why Police Academies progressively push recruits to higher and higher levels of achievement.

But courage is only one side of self-discipline – the other is resisting temptation. And likewise, "resisting temptation is an exercise," says David Bersoff, a Psychology Professor at the University of Pennsylvania. "The more often you exercise your ability to resist temptation, the stronger that part of you gets. The bigger the temptations you resist, the stronger you get." It's just like physical exercise, the more you build yourself up, the easier it is to maintain the regimen.

With this in mind, Howard Rankin, a Clinical Psychologist at the University of South Carolina, has developed a "temptation management" regimen that teaches people to imagine themselves resisting temptation until they are actually able to do it. "They go through a crisis and come out the other side. They feel empowered because they've survived," he said. "The power of the temptation lies in your approach to it rather than any intrinsic energy it has on its own. The core principle is impulse control, learning to tolerate frustration."

Unfortunately, a muscle can also atrophy, and the more you commit unethical acts the easier it becomes. The Prefrontal Cortex is like a little courtroom where the temptation cases are argued, and some people are very good at bending the law in their favor, "If nobody finds out, it's not really cheating, right?" Once you create a pathway to your Low Brain that rationalizes greed, lust, arrogance, or

prejudice, it will take a major "REVELATION" to repair the damage.

Sometimes a REVELATION comes as a personal awakening, sometimes friends and family do an "intervention" to bring home a point, and sometimes it takes a personal tragedy like Jim Batsel's to make you wake-up. If you're lucky, you won't need to hit the rock bottom of a divorce or drunk driving arrest to achieve a REVELATION. But the powerful thing about a REVELATION is once you realize that you've been doing wrong, it's never the same if you go back.

CHAIN-OF-COMMAND is actually a system that creates REVELATIONS through a hierarchy of interventions. Going back to Colonel Charles Rowan, even though he expected his lowest ranking police to behave as an "Officer" would in the military, he kept the CHAIN-OF-COMMAND for its checks and balances. Sometimes its hard for the frontline officer to stay objective because he's always in the thick of things, says Whitesell. "The police officer is in the mud, blood and beer fighting chaos."

"The sergeant has one foot in the mud and one foot in the office," which makes it a little easier to stand back, stay in the third-person, and keep check on the officer so he doesn't slip into the Low Brain. "The lieutenant has dusty shoes," because he's mostly in the office dealing with politics, but he still gets out on the road once in a while. The higher command ranks get their shoes completely covered in the manure of politics, fighting office battles to protect the integrity of the department's functions. So you go from the tactical at the officer level gradually up to the strategic at the command level. This is why supervisory ranks must be filled based on emotional maturity – unethical behavior by command personnel models unethical behavior, creating a culture of Low Brain acceptance.

Because the police chain-of-command is not nearly as large as the military's, Whitesell says he now teaches recruits and officers to also keep check on each other, a positive use of peer pressure. When fellow officers see one of their own start drinking and whoring around, Low Brain conduct that is unbecoming, they intervene and say, "Brad, your lizard brain is

**doing the thinking for you ... think about your wife and kids!"**

Baumeister warns that resisting temptation is draining. Like exercising a muscle, self-discipline is "...something that gets used up. It needs time to get replenished before you use it again." Charging your courage and ethics batteries requires re-training and spiritual replenishment. This is why people go to church, pray, meditate, or read about the great moral deeds of past heroes. This is why old experienced cops still need to go back to the academy for defensive tactics and ethics training. This is why it's good to hang powerfully written affirmations in the police department, to remind officers of their oath of REVERENCE and FORBEARANCE: **"Make sure your actions uphold the honor of those officers who gave their lives in the performance of their duties!"**

What they are doing here, says Whitesell, is trying to push the wayward officer into the High Brain. It's an old ethics technique used by the great theologian Erasmus for teaching Knights: **"If you wouldn't do it with your family standing there beside you, it probably isn't ethical."** Whitesell takes this one step further and applies it to police procedure and use of force: **"If you wouldn't do it with a jury standing there beside you, you probably shouldn't do it."** Whitesell says, "With lesser expectations people tend to give lesser performance."



Farewell From Capt. Richard Dragomer  
– 40 Years of Service –

I will miss the 5th District, and the people of the Michigan State Police I have had the pleasure of serving with. I would like to depart by saying that, from my experience, there are three areas to focus on in your personal life to be happy, in order of priority: The Family, The Family, and The Family. Likewise, there are three areas to focus on in your professional life, to be successful and make a difference, in order of priority: The Trooper, The Trooper, and The Trooper.

Thanks and stay healthy!  
Drag

**REVERENCE!**



# Ethics Lesson: BENEDICT ARNOLD

## *A Traitors Tale of Ego, Greed, and Lust*

“Benedict Arnold: A Question of Honor” is the latest A&E history movie about a man whose name is now synonymous with the word traitor, but who was once regarded as a patriotic hero by his friend, George Washington. What made Arnold turn on his friend and country, committing one of the most infamous of unethical acts in American history?

Like many other soldiers, Arnold had fought courageously at the Battle of Saratoga in 1777, a victory that finally convinced the French to join the American side. But after the battle Arnold became bitter. The Continental Congress still owed Arnold back pay, like they did many other soldiers. And then when Congress promoted several officers above Arnold, whom Arnold thought were inferior to him, he resigned his commission in anger. Arnold was later convinced to return by Washington, who thought Arnold still had potential.

Arnold was still bitter about money, so Washington gave him a plumb appointment as military governor in Philadelphia. It was here that Arnold became “infatuated” with a beautiful and prominent British loyalist by the name of Margaret Shippen. Totally taken, he married her in 1779. However, he and his new wife lived well beyond their means. As a result, Arnold entered into some shady business dealings that involved the use of government property. Angry Revolutionaries demanded that Arnold be court-martialed. Arnold got off easy with a reprimand, but in his mind, Arnold felt he had been the victim.

Angry, Arnold succumbs to his wife’s suggestions that the American’s were underserving, and she connects him with British agents who promise to make Arnold a rich hero if he switches sides. In July 1780, the British offered Arnold in excess of 10,000 pounds and a military commission if he arranged the surrender of West Point, which would have split American and French forces, possibly winning the war for the British. The plan was foiled when a courier was captured sneaking plans to the British.

Arnold escapes to the British side, and even took a command against

the Americans. Washington puts a price on Arnold’s head, but he was never captured. After the war, Arnold lived in England and Canada, but after committing one treachery, even the British would not trust him. His attempts to become a British officer, and at business, all failed and he died in London in 1801. His wife joined him in death three years later. Coincidentally, President Thomas Jefferson signed legislation establishing West Point as the United States Military Academy in 1802.

To sum up Arnold’s character, he seemed unable to live up to the vows or oaths he took, or keep long term commitments. Biographers say he was courageous in battle, but he was also excessively proud, governed by

selfish impulse rather than principle, consistently giving in to temptation. Yes, Arnold’s pay was short and he wasn’t treated well by Congress, but every single soldier shared such grievances – still it was Arnold who turned his coat. “He was incredibly defensive, quite arrogant, way too quick to anger, he didn’t see anything wrong with abusing his authority for personal profit, and he never wavered from thinking he was always right,” says Aidan Quinn, the actor who portrays Arnold in the A&E production. It was these character flaws that would drive Arnold to the blackest of treacheries. (For more information on Benedict Arnold, go to the A&E website at [www.aetv.com/tv/shows/benedictarnold/](http://www.aetv.com/tv/shows/benedictarnold/))



## Lessons From The Corporate Scandals

*Excerpts from and address by JOHN J. BRENNAN, Chairman and CEO of The Vanguard Group, at Bentley College, Waltham, Massachusetts, October 29, 2002*

While I’m honored to have been asked to speak on business ethics, I can’t help but think of something that the great Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne once said: “One man practicing sportsmanship is far better than fifty preaching it.” I want to share my perspective on the lessons learned from the 2002 scandals.

**MAKE SURE YOUR PEOPLE HAVE INTEGRITY:** Here’s a broad statement that I firmly believe: **All evil stems from either ego or greed.** Those who commit acts of evil think they are entitled to special treatment and are exempt from the rules or standards that apply to us “lesser mortals.” While ego and greed are always part of the world, they reached wildfire proportions in the late 1990s.

In one of my favorite books, “Good to Great,” author Jim Collins talks about the character traits of successful people. They all embody a paradoxical mix of personal humility and professional will. They are ambitious for their organization, NOT themselves. They display a compelling modesty, are self-effacing and understated. In

contrast, those organizations now suffering or bankrupt were led by people with gargantuan personal egos that contributed to the demise or continued mediocrity of the organization.

**MAKE SURE YOUR SYSTEM PRESERVES INTEGRITY:** Unfortunately, even good people can be tempted to go astray. That’s why we must also design systems that encourage people of integrity to keep behaving with integrity. During the Reagan presidency, the philosophy on arms negotiations was one of “**Trust, But Verify.**” Likewise, if we are to prevent future corruption, we must **insist on effective controls, promote for integrity, and eliminate inherent conflicts of interest.**

At Vanguard, we understand that integrity has tangible market value. As we say in our ethics manual, “A momentary lapse from the straight and narrow could be enough to ruin Vanguard’s reputation from many years to come – and perhaps forever in some people’s eyes.”

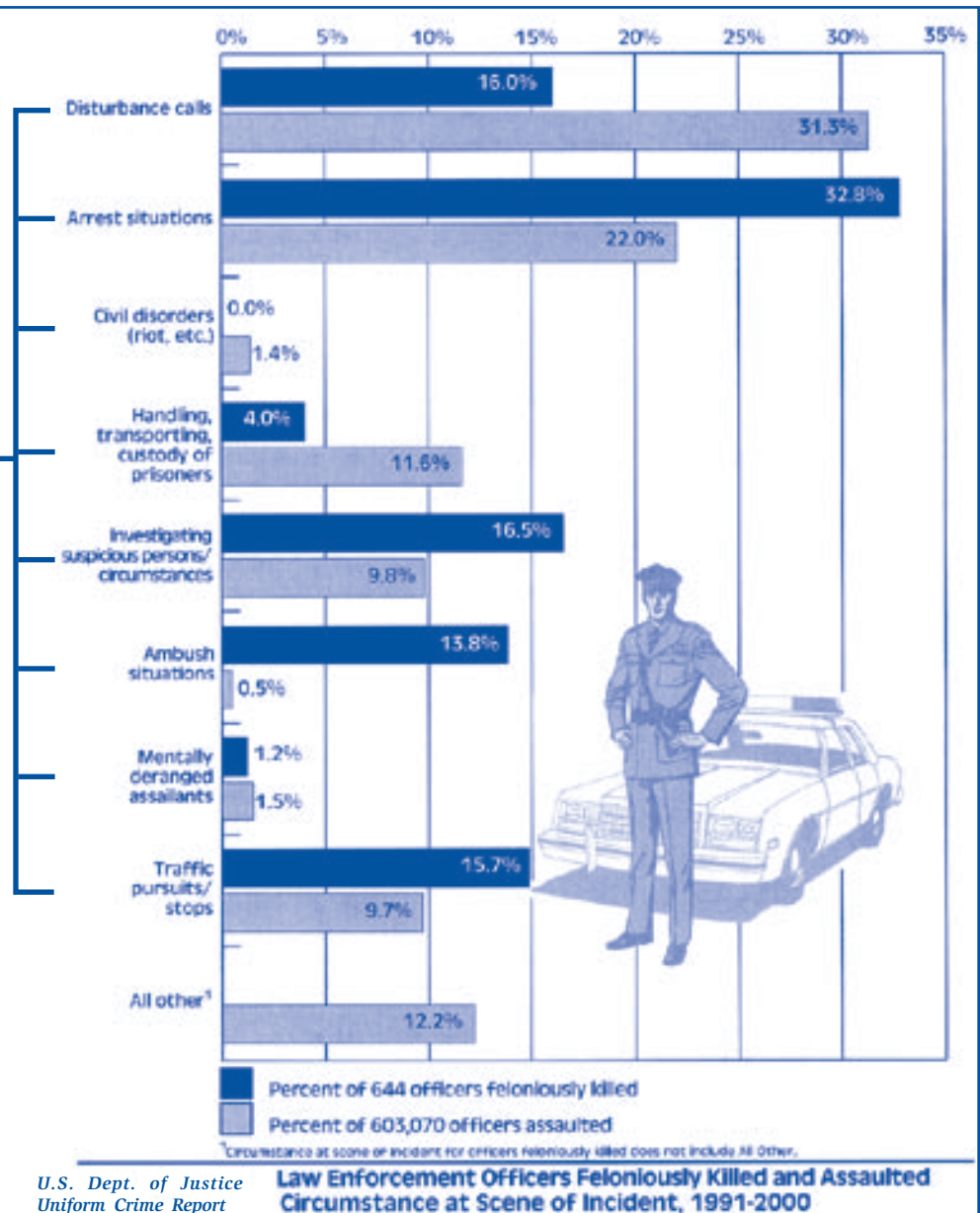
Think how the state of American business would be improved if employees everywhere, from top executive to the mailroom asked themselves: “Do my actions at work contribute to the creation of value? Does my work reflect the creativity and integrity of God himself?”



Prior Rank	Current Rank	Top 50 Felonies Name of Offense
1	1	C/S Poss. C/Narc. < 25 gm.
3	2	C/S Poss. W/I Del. C/N < 50
4	3	OUIL/OUID - 3rd Offense
5	4	AWDW ("Felonious Assault")
7	5	CCW
8	6	C/S Del/Poss. W/I Del. MJ
13	7	Uttering & Publishing
10	8	Larceny In Building
2	9	Retail Fraud - 1st Degree
9	10	B & E w/Intent
6	11	RCSP > \$1,000 < \$20,000
12	12	Home Invasion - 2nd Degree
17	13	Unlawful Drive Away Vehicle
29	14	Fleeing/Eluding - 3rd Degree
14	15	Embezzlement > \$20,000
15	16	Resisting & Obstructing Police
20	17	CSC - 2nd Degree
19	18	Robbery Armed
> 50	19	Disarming Police Officer (F/A)
31	20	Fleeing/Eluding 4th Degree
21	21	CSC - 4th Degree
25	22	CSC - 3rd Degree
24	23	Assault W/I Great Bodily Harm
26	24	Unlawful Use of Motor Veh.
27	25	Home Invasion - 1st Degree
23	26	Financial Trans. Device - Poss.
33	27	CSC - 1st Degree
30	28	Robbery - Unarmed
16	29	MDOP > \$1000
> 50	30	B&E Motor Vehicle w/Dam.
> 50	31	Felon Possessing Firearm
> 50	32	RCSP > \$20,000 or 3rd Off.
11	33	Larceny from Motor Vehicle
32	34	C/Subst. - 2nd Off. (Dbl Penalty)
34	35	Larceny from Person
22	36	Checks w/o Acct.
> 50	37	Welfare Fraud > \$500
> 50	38	Keeping Drug House
37	39	Forgery
18	40	Larceny > \$1000
28	41	Obtaining Property UFP > \$1000
44	42	Domestic Violence - 3rd Off.
49	43	2nd Degree Murder
> 50	44	False Report of Felony
41	45	MDOP Police/Fire Property
35	46	Weapon/Poss. By Felon
> 50	47	Assault W/I Murder
46	48	Escape or Attempt - Prison
> 50	49	Bond Jumping (Felony Case)
45	50	Assault W/I Robbery - Armed

Michigan Bar Journal  
December 2002  
www.michbar.org

U.S. Dept. of Justice  
Uniform Crime Report



## High Risk: Arrest Situations and Attempts to Disarm Police

In the year 2002, the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial reports that 147 law enforcement officers across the nation were killed in the line of duty. Fortunately, this is well below the decade-long average of 165 deaths annually, and a major drop from 2001 when 230 officers were killed (72 of these fatalities resulting from the September 11th terrorist attack). But policing remains the most deadly occupation, and Criminologist Anthony Harris, of the University of Massachusetts, is convinced that the overall fatality rate would be much higher if it were not for continual improvements in trauma care.

Law enforcement shares many accidental risks that other occupations incur, but police must also contend with someone "intentionally" trying to harm them. Unfortunately, the Uniform Crime Report shows the assault rate against police remains high, with more than 1 in 10 officers being assaulted each year throughout the 90s, with cities above 250,000 in population averaging 18 assault per 100 officers in 2000. About one-third of those officers assaulted received injuries severe enough to require documentation.

There is a disturbing trend regarding respect for law and police authority, as reflected in a Michigan Bar Journal study. John T. Hammond of the Michigan Judges Association shows significant changes in Michigan's top 50 felonies (this list of 50 is only 1/13th of the possible Michigan felony offenses, but they constitute better than 82 percent of all convictions). You will notice that Disarming A Police Officer is now 19th on the list in terms of frequency of convictions. Fleeing and Eluding Police, Third and Fourth Degree, also went way up. Other convictions in the top 50 that affect police safety: Felon Possessing a Firearm or Weapon, Bond Jumping, MDOP Police Property, and Resisting and Obstructing.

While police officers have tactics for mitigating many dangerous situations, there is no way to prevent every attack, as newspaper reports increasingly show. Taking into consideration both of the above charts, Use of Force Instructors should give "extra" effort to Weapon Retention and Arrest Procedures so their officers are both mentally and physically prepared.

